



DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/divisionmines.shtml>

MINE INSPECTOR

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **Mine Inspector*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Qualify for Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mines Inspector positions
- Conduct safety and health inspections at underground and surface coal mine sites when employed by the Division

NOTE:

- This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification. Issued only if employed by the Division of Mines.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Hold a valid First Class Mine Foreman Certification in Virginia
- Seven years underground mining experience
- Three years credit will be granted for a degree in mining engineering from an approved four-year college
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperience Training acceptable)

THIS CERTIFICATION IS CRITERIA FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DIVISION OF MINES WHEN APPLYING FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 80% on each element of the examination.

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
▪ Fires and Explosions (FX)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	20
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ Electricity (EC)	20
▪ Mine Gases (MG)	20
▪ Mining Laws (ML)	50
▪ Ventilation (VE)	20
▪ Federal Regulations	20
▪ Accident Report - completion of form (AR)	
▪ Inspection Report - completion of form (IR)	
▪ Gas Detection – practical demonstration	

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- Records
Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)
Weekly Examination (WE)
Practical Exercises (PS)
 - Ventilation
 - Roof Control
 - Emergency Response
- Map – ventilated per instructions (MA)

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR Part 75, 77
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- Practical Records
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide
- First Aid For Miners Study Guide
- Mine Gases Packet

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

***4 hours biannual First Class Mine Foreman Continuing Education will update this certification.**

Revised 06/25/07